verely as any of those who made trespasses of a similar nature. Those notes were taken for these transactions in order that the Sur. Gen. could have something he could administer; if he released the lumber he could not get it back again, but he could hold the notes until the matter was dealt with. In regard to opening the boom, Ellis, instead of telegraphing the department, ought to have gone to Ferguson and said: 'Sir, I understand you are about to open this boom and take the lumber out, and I have received instructions to obtain sufficient force to hold the lumber; will you interfere after this?' Had he done that this expense of having these sixteen men would not have been incurred. It was an arbitrary proceeding and showed the animus of the man. There was not a particle of evidence to show that Ferguson in any way attempted to open the boom. But the boom master tells him this, and he telegraphs to the office that Ferguson was doing it, and then engages sixteen men at $4 each for twenty-four hours. He would not charge the Committee with injustice in taking the evidence, but he would say, taking up the Report made in the first instance, and looking at the fact that the Chairman of the Committee refused to allow the Surveyor General to ask questions of the witness, except through the chair in the first part of the investigation, that the investigation was not made in the spirit it should have been. They ought to have afforded the Surveyor General the fullest opportunity to make his statements.—It was true the chairman subsequently receded from the position as he found the force of opinion against him. The Committee had not exhausted the testimony.—They ought to have consented to have sent for Senator Ferguson, and it was part of their duty to have sent for the Chief Commissioner. If the Committee had simply reported the evidence to the House he would not have made the remarks he now made, but when the Report was a synopsis of the evidence, that synopsis ought to have presented Ferguson's view of the matter as well as the view of Ellis. It should have presented the fact that it was the intention of Ferguson to take out those licenses, and it ought to have shown that those notes were held by the department for the purpose of being admitted by the Surveyor General that the money did not belong to the Province. They ought to have presented the facts of the case from both sides, the same as a Judge would charge a Jury from the Bench.

Mr. Tweedie said he had listened with a great deal of pleasure to the remarks that had been made. He had disagreed with the gentlemen who composed the committee at first, because the fullest investigation had not been had in the matter. He had thought the Surveyor General should have been allowed to explain the charge brought against him. That report having been referred back to give the Surveyor General the fullest opportunity to investigate the matter and to give his clear statement, which, he said, would satisfy all doubts. That had been done, and the report and evidence had been brought in and read at the Clerk's table. The hon. member for Gloucester moved that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider the Report. He thought then that some member of the Government would move some amendment to it, but when he saw no member of the Government rise in his place he thought for once they were going to have this matter before the Committee, and have it discussed fairly, and the minority of the House would have a chance to express their opinions upon it. But what was his surprise when he saw his colleague rise and read this amendment. At that time he imagined the Government had got him to move it as it contained some statements he did not think his colleague agreed with. This fact struck him more particularly when he saw his hon. friend rise at the nod of the Attorney General. But when he saw the amendment was in the hand-writing of his colleague he felt he must apologize for thinking the Government had anything to do with it. In regard to the matter of these seizures he would not take it up in detail, but was prepared to give some reasons why he could not vote for the amendment. Notwithstanding what had been said by the honorable gentlemen who had spoken in favor of the Government, he would join issue with them and say that he deemed it expedient to go into further consideration of this matter. Some honorable gentlemen had contended that it was a proper way to discuss the question with the Speaker in the chair. But it seemed to him they had a new rule every day. When the motion was made not to go into Committee of Supply, the Provincial Secretary contended that the Committee of the Whole was the proper place to discuss these matters, because the discussion would be more free, that members often think of some point after they have sat down, and they are debarred from speaking again with the Speaker in the chair. He (Mr. Tweedie) contended that there was no reason why they should not have gone into Committee upon the report without having this amendment moved. Then again the House is debarred from giving an expression of their views by a resolution, they having to vote simply upon the amendment. In this amendment there were statements dragged in to draw away the attention of hon. members from the real facts and issues that should be before us. The dragging in of the stumpage question was to get the votes of some hon. members who are favorable to it. The first statement in the preamble to the resolution says trespasses were made in 1873 when the old mileage system was in force, and at a time when no specific sum was by law required to be paid in commutation of trespasses. Do they mean to say now that the whole sin of this iniquitous settlement with Ferguson by the Surveyor General rests upon the mileage system?—They say the mileage system was the cause of all this. It is false and hollow. They had the same control of the Crown Lands under the old mileage system as they have under the new. The mileage system has nothing to do with the facts before us. The question is whether the Surveyor General acted honestly with the Province—whether he did his duty to the Province. He would say due consideration had not been given to this matter, and it had been settled without regard to the public weal. Mr. Inches said in his evidence that the usual way of settling seizures was by exacting a dollar a thousand. It is said there was no specific scale to calculate this lumber, but could not a scale be made for the time? Was it necessary we should have a scale fixed by law before the Messrs. Ferguson & Co. could be made to pay? He would ask for any evidence to show that in any trespass the price was not one dollar a thousand. The matter was decided without the careful enquiry which the preamble states was given to it. He would deny that any enquiry was made sufficient to alter the course first determined on when the lumber was seized. Did the Surveyor General at that time say there was no law or specific scale upon which to settle? No, he telegraphed to hold the lumber unless there was a dollar a thousand paid. He held that firm stand until that self-constituted delegation of Messrs. Kelly, Young and Fraser went over there. Hon. Mr. Kelly was evidently acting [illegible] the interest of Mr. Ferguson and not in the interest [illegible] the Province. Did Kelly take this matter into consideration before he advised the Surveyor General to give up this lumber to Ferguson? Did he say to Ferguson, "I am a member of the Government; if you have trespassed you must deal with the Crown Land Department?" No, he pledged himself to look after the interest of Ferguson the first time he was asked. Did Young carefully consider the matter? No, he pledged himself to co-operate with Kelly in trying to get the Surveyor General to release the lumber without paying the one dollar a thousand. What position did Mr. Fraser occupy? Was he in a position to consider the matter in the interest of the Province? His partner was the paid agent of Messrs. Ferguson, and he had a right to look after their interests. It was not right for him to be their agent and a member of the Executive Council. The hon. member went on to show from the evidence that the notes taken were not given subject to equitable adjustment, and that the Government had not acted in good faith to the Province, and that it was not inexpedient to consider the matter further.

Hon. Mr. Kelly said some of the speeches of gentlemen opposite delighted him, but they were too long in proportion to what they contained. His name had been mixed up with the matter under consideration, so he would state, as briefly as possible, what he knew about it. Mr. Ferguson called on him at Chatham in the early part of the summer 1873, told him about his lumber being seized and said he was going to Fredericton to present his case before the Surveyor General. He (Kelly) told him it was no use for him to go to Fredericton, because the Surveyor General was away up the St. John river, and would not be back for several weeks. After Mr. Ferguson had told him the main facts connected with the seizures, he said that, although he could do nothing in the matter [illegible] warranted in saying that the [illegible] would deal fairly with him. [illegible] seemed to think that it [illegible] ernment to treat citi- [illegible] them, as Mr. Fergu- [illegible] in an arbitrary man- [illegible] learn that when there [illegible] an officer of a department [illegible] authority, and presumes upon his official position to do a wrong to any one of the people, the Government cannot step in and see fair play administered. He was convinced that Ellis had persecuted Ferguson, and that there was danger of the latter's mill being shut for want of the logs that had been locked up in an arbitrary manner. So he gave the assurance that no wrong would be done, and he took sufficient interest in the matter to assist in arriving at an equitable determination of it. He telegraphed to the Surveyor General that he thought Ellis was persecuting Ferguson, and he had communication on the subject with Hon. Mr. Young. It had been said that Mr. Ferguson and himself were great friends politically. He was aware of no facts which bore out such an assertion, for that gentleman he had hardly spoken to for four years. When in Bathurst he did not cross the bridge, and was not at Ferguson's at all. If he did fraternize with any one it was with his friend Burns, who was always very genial and pleasant at home, and on that occasion was particularly so.—It might be that Burns had a design in it to keep him away from Ferguson's, but it was unnecessary, as he had no intention of going there, and his visit was occasioned by his thinking it would be a good time to make his summer trip to Gloucester and Restigouche as Commissioner of the Board of Works. All he had to do with the matter was to tell the Surveyor General that he hoped he would enquire fully and act fairly as between Ferguson and Ellis. He knew men were up those northern rivers all the year round, either chopping or driving lumber, and that licenses were only taken out when operations were properly located. He believed Ferguson to be an honorable man, not accustomed to pilfering from the public domain. On making a calculation he knew that twenty-five square miles would cover the area of all the trespasses charged against Ferguson, so when he found that he had to pay $1,000 for what he could have obtained and intended honestly to obtain for $200, he felt that he had been dealt with as severely as he deserved, to say the least. Regarding Ferguson's political influence, he expressed the same views as the Surveyor General, and said he had never any communication whatever with Moffatt on the subject. He knew also that the Provincial Secretary did not go to Ferguson's when the settlement was made, for he was sick at the hotel. He would ask whether he would have been justified in allowing Mr. Ferguson to go all the way from Chatham to Fredericton to see the Surveyor General when he knew he was not there, and he would put it to the House to say if he could give Ferguson any other advice than that which he did, viz.: to give his notes for whatever the seizing officer demanded, and the whole matter would be fairly considered and justly arranged. Hon. gentlemen seemed to take the bare fact that Ferguson got out so many logs, and they pretended to believe he ought to pay $1 per M. for them. It did not seem to occur to them that consideration should be given to the licenses he held and honestly intended to apply for. He believed the Surveyor General's department was most carefully and honestly looked after by him, and that he spared no pains or personal sacrifice to insure its efficiency. The Province was indebted to the Surveyor General for breaking up the old mileage system and introducing the stumpage system, under which trespassing was rendered very difficult. He was not the person to stand by and allow Mr. Ferguson, or any other person, to trample on the rights of the people, and he would always be found ready to protect the public interests against those who would encroach upon them. He had occasion to deal with such people in his own county, and did not shrink from the responsibility; but he was ever as ready to see any man righted when a wrong was sought to be done him. He knew, in reference to this as well as other matters, that slanders have been circulated against him, but his record would always be a sufficient answer to them. He referred to the Kent seizures matter, which had been before the House last year, and said the Government had not been afraid in that case to compromise those trespasses in the interest of the poor settlers; yet this rich man, Ferguson, of whom they were all so much afraid, had to pay. He believed that persons outside the House were quite as much interested in the result of the matter as members themselves. He could see gentlemen who had failed to convince constituencies that they should elect them, dodging around the lobbies and instructing members in opposition, and he believed the assistance thus obtained from outside was quite effective. If those gentlemen could not get seats inside they must be content to work outside, and it was a privilege he did not envy them the enjoyment of. He referred to the success of the stumpage regulations, and concluded by saying he was glad to see an investigating spirit abroad in the House. The more effect it had upon hon. gentlemen the better they might discover that the romour that his department owed some ten thousand dollars to one contractor for work done some time since was without any foundation in fact, and if they would make the investigation still more thorough, they would learn, with pleasure and surprise, no doubt, that his department did not owe two thousand dollars to all the contractors put together.

Mr. Burns said the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Elder) had carefully avoided the real matter in connection with the case, but he had dealt in generalities. He wanted the House to believe that he (Burns) wanted the lumber to be confiscated. He did not say so; he had said the lumber was advertised for sale, and he would hurl back the insinuation and say he had done his duty to his country and himself. He (Elder) considered the examination not a fair one, because his particular line of action was not adopted. He appeared more like the adviser and counsel of the Surveyor General than a member of the Committee. He said he would not sign that report, but why did not he bring in a minority report? It was because they had no show for it. The hon. member then proceeded to answer all the arguments used by hon. members on the other side of the question, and closed his speech at midnight having occupied nearly three hours in delivery.

The vote was then taken on Mr. Swim's amendment, as follows:—Yeas—Messrs. Fraser, King, Kelly, Stevenson, M'Queen, Crawford, Willis, Perley, Keans, Theriault, Flewelling, Phillips, Beveridge, M'Kay, Ryan, (Albert) Austin, Dow, Barker, Elder, Swim, Wood, M'Kenzie, Rogers—23; Nays—Messrs. Covert, Burns, Ryan (Gloucester) Johnson, Smith, M'Leod, Davidson, Tweedie, Humphrey, Pickard, Cotterell, Leighton—12.

April 11.

Mr. Burns committed a bill to amend an act to provide for the establishment of a police and lock-up house at Caraquet, which was agreed to with amendments.

Mr. Phillips presented the report of the Committee on Debates.

Mr. Burns presented the report of the Committee on the petition of D. G. Smith.

Hon. Mr. Fraser moved the resolution, of which he had given notice, in reference to the erection of a Normal School with model departments. He said that from the exhaustive addresses that had been made upon the subject hon. members were fully informed of the necessity for this building. He read and explained the resolution. The land to be sold was to be laid out in blocks of not more than a thousand acres. This would cause competition, and it would, perhaps, bring three or four dollars per acre. The resolution referred to obtaining money from the Dominion Government. There was an act of the Dominion Parliament which permitted them to advance any money to the credit of the Provinces for the construction of any public work they might wish to engage in; and then it could be repaid again and interest received at five per cent.

The House went into Committee upon the resolution.—Mr. Ryan (Albert) in the chair.

The necessity for the construction of a Normal School building was admitted by Messrs. Butler, M'Kenzie, Covert, Davidson, Cotterell, Burns, Pickard, Woods, Swim, Smith and Tweedie, and its construction was ably advocated by Messrs. Dow, Fraser, Elder and M'Kay. The general expression of opinion of the members who spoke was that the public lands should not be sold, but that a better policy would be to issue debentures for the erection of a Normal School building.

Messrs. Davidson, Tweedie and Smith argued very strongly against the sale of the public lands. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Johnson moved the resolution, of which he had given notice, respecting the French having the information contained in the annual report on agriculture.

There was some discussion on the item of $2,500 towards the erection of public buildings in Madawaska. The Provincial Sec'y explained that simi-